

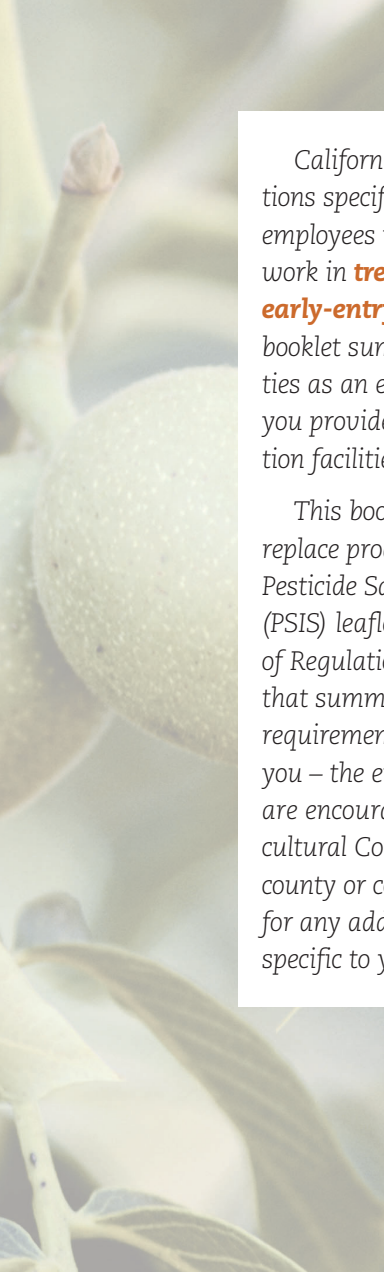


Compliance Assistance



Pesticide Decontamination Facilities

EMPLOYER
RESPONSIBILITIES



California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides or work in **treated fields** (**field workers**, **early-entry field workers**). This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to **assure** that you provide adequate decontamination facilities for your employees.

This booklet is not intended to replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See **"Definitions You Need to Know"** at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.

What You Need To Do

- **Assure** that decontamination facilities are provided to employees handling pesticides and to all field workers engaged in activities involving contact with treated surfaces in treated fields.
- **Assure** that decontamination facilities have:
 - **Water**, **soap**, and **single-use towels** for routine washing of the hands and face, and for emergency eye-flushing and washing of the entire body.
 - One clean change of **coveralls**, also, is available for **handlers**.
- **Assure** that:
 - **Water** is of a quality and temperature that will not cause illness or injury.
 - **Water** is stored separate from water used for mixing pesticides – unless, water-tank used for mixing is equipped with appropriate valves to prevent back flow of pesticides into the water.
 - **Soap and Single-use towels** are in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of handlers or field workers.

Where Do You Need To Provide These Facilities?

■ **Assure** that decontamination facilities for **handlers** are:

- Located at the mixing / loading site and not more than 1/4 mile (or at the nearest point of vehicular access) from other handlers.

Note: Decontamination facilities for handlers for uses OTHER than for the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity must be located within 100 feet of the mixing / loading site, if they are handling pesticides with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the label.

- Not located in an area being treated or under a restricted entry interval (REI) unless:
 - The handlers for whom the site is provided are working in that area being treated or under an REI.
 - The **soap, towels**, and extra change of **coveralls** are in an enclosed container.
 - The **water** is running tap water or enclosed in a container.

■ **Assure** that decontamination facilities for **field workers** are:

- Located not more than 1/4 mile from the field workers (or the nearest point of vehicular access).

■ **Assure** that:

- Each handler has **one pint of water** for emergency eye-flushing immediately available, if the pesticide product labeling requires protective eyewear. Immediately available means carried by the handler or on the vehicle or aircraft the handler is using.

When Do You Need To Provide The Facilities?

■ **Handlers** — for the duration of the handling task, and at the end of their exposure period.

■ **Field workers** — until 30 days after the end of any REI for that area; or 30 days after the end of any application to that area, if there is no REI.

■ **Early-entry field workers** — working in a treated field while any REI is in effect.

What If You Don't Comply?

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to take all reasonable measures to assure that employees handle and

use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employee's health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you will violate federal and State law. DPR and the Counties' Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties to persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$50,000, and imprisonment for certain violations that have 'created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment.' Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.

Definitions You Need To Know

Handle – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (It does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanical or watered-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.

- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or greenhouse ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

Treated Field – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days (It does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray). Also, it includes:

- Associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas.

Assure – means to take all reasonable measures so that the behavior, activity, or event in question occurs. When the behavior, activity, or event in question involves or concerns an employee, reasonable measures by an employer include determining that the employee has the knowledge to comply; providing the means to comply; supervising the work activity; and having and enforcing a written workplace disciplinary action policy covering the employer's requirements, as well as other measures required by pesticide law or regulation.

Field Worker – means any person who, for any kind of compensation, performs cultural activities in a field. It does not include performing tasks as a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well being of the plants, or taking samples, nor does it include local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties.

Early-Entry Field Worker – means any person who enters into a treated field or other area after the pesticide application is complete, but before the restricted entry interval or other restrictions on entry for that pesticide have expired.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

A complete set of the worker safety regulations is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's web site at: **www.cdpr.ca.gov**



**California Department
of Pesticide Regulation**

A Department of the California
Environmental Protection Agency